

8. Shortnews

1. Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme

Ruby Fresh Snacks in Kerala exemplifies how the PM FME Scheme supports micro food entrepreneurs. Government-backed loans enabled the unit to double production.

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme

Launch - 29 June 2020

Ministry - Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Duration - FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26

Type - Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)

Aim - Formalise and support micro food processing units across India. Make units competitive and bring them into the organised sector and support Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan and Vocal for Local initiatives.

Financial Outlay - ₹10,000 crores

Funding Pattern -

1. **General States** - 60 - 40 (Centre - State)
2. **North Eastern & Himalayan States** - 90 - 10
3. **Union Territories with Legislature** - 60 - 40
4. **Other UTs** - 100% by Centre

Key Features of the Scheme

Credit-Linked Subsidies - Support for 2 lakh micro food processing units for setting up new units or upgrading existing ones

Common Infrastructure - Establishment of mega food parks, agro-processing clusters, cold chains, and processing units

Institutional Support - Technical, financial, and business assistance to entrepreneurs

2. Big Four Snakes in India

A recent study has found that the 'Big Four' venomous snakes are likely to shift their habitats northwards and northeastwards due to climate change.

Key Findings of the Study

Medical Significance - The Big Four snakes are responsible for over 90% of snakebite fatalities in India. Snakebite is classified as a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) in the country.

India's Global Burden - India accounts for nearly half of all global snakebite deaths, highlighting the public health challenge.

Impact of Climate Change on Habitats

Southern Regions - Expected decline in suitable habitats, particularly in Karnataka (currently key habitat for saw-scaled viper).

Northern & Northeastern Regions - Predicted expansion of suitable habitats in states such as Haryana, Rajasthan, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Northeastern States - Some may experience a >100% increase in habitat suitability due to shifting climate conditions.

The 'Big Four' Indian Snakes

1. **Indian Cobra (Naja naja)** - Venomous, black or brown with a distinctive hood. Oviparous, builds nests for eggs. Distributed across India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal.
2. **Russell's Viper (Daboia russelii)** - Large, thick-bodied snake with keeled scales. Found across South Asia and parts of Southeast Asia.

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

3. **Common Krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*)** - Glossy black or bluish-black with white bands. Distributed across South Asia.
4. **Indian Saw-scaled Viper (*Echis carinatus*)** - Small, stout-bodied with a saw-like ridge on its back. Found in India and neighboring South Asian countries.

3. Global Peace Index 2025

The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025 ranked Iceland as the most peaceful country, while India stood at 115th out of 163 nations, reflecting a modest improvement in its peace score.

About Global Peace Index

Published by - Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), an international think tank based in Sydney, Australia.

Analysis - The GPI 2025 analyzed 163 countries, representing 99.7% of the world's population.

Criteria - Assesses countries across 23 indicators in 3 domains -

Societal Safety & Security - Crime rates, political stability, refugee impact

Ongoing Domestic & International Conflict - War, terrorism, civil unrest

Militarisation - Military expenditure, arms imports/exports, armed personnel

Key Findings of Global Peace Index 2025

Most peaceful - Iceland, Ireland, New Zealand, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Singapore, Portugal, Denmark, Slovenia

Least peaceful - Russia, Ukraine, Sudan, DR Congo, Yemen

Regional trends -

1. Europe dominates the top 10
2. South America shows improvements (Argentina, Peru)
3. Sub-Saharan Africa & Middle East remain least peaceful

Global trend - Overall peacefulness declined due to internal conflicts, militarisation, and geopolitical divides

India's Rank in 2024 - India's rank in the Global Peace Index (GPI) for 2024 was 116th out of 163 countries.

4. Exercise Bright Star 2025

INS TRIKAND reaches Egypt to join multilateral drill Bright Star 2025

About the Exercise Bright Star 2025

Type - Biennial multilateral military exercise; one of the largest and longest-running tri-service drills in the Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region.

History - Initiated in 1980 as a US-Egypt bilateral exercise, it has evolved into a full-scale multilateral drill involving multiple countries.

Objective - Enhance jointness and interoperability among participating nations, promote regional peace and stability, and strengthen multi-domain warfare preparedness through coordinated training.